[श्री जी० स्वामी नायक]

वगैरह में बिजली न होने की वजह से भी काफी बाधा हो रही है। आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार के कम अंदाजे की वजह से और इनकी दूसरी वजह से इलेक्ट्रिसिटी को कोई प्राइरिटी उन्होंने नहीं दी, जिसकी वजह आज आंध्रप्रदेश में बिजली ही नहीं बल्कि पानी की भी काफी तकलीफ हो रही है, ट्रेनों के मूवमेंट में, आने-जाने में बाधा इसलिए पड़ रही है कि उनको पानी देना पड़ता है, पानी वहां पर है, लेकिन बिजली नहीं है।

मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे केन्द्रीय ग्रिड से या एन०टी० पी० सी० से आंध्रप्रदेश सरकार को बिजली की ज्यादा सुविधा कराए ताकि, जो केन्द्रीय सरकार के उद्योग वहां पर हैं अंडरटेकिंग है जिनमें ले-आफ हो रहा है और मजदूरों को घर बैठाने की बात हो रही है, उससे बचा सकें। एक बार मैं फिर केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध करूंगा कि वे केन्द्रीय ग्रिड से या जैसे एन० टी० पी० सी० वगैरह से पावर सप्लाई करें और वहां जो अभी कोस्टल आंध्रा से सारे देश में ट्रेन से जो आम भेजते हैं, उस पर भी काफी दुश्वारी आने की नौबत है, उसे भी बचाएं। मैं सरकार से आपके द्वारा मांग करूंगा कि वे आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार को बिजली के मामले में मदद करें ताकि वहां की आवाम को हो रही तकलीफ से मुक्ति मिले।

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL, 1987—Contd.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the Minister to reply now.

SHRI .GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: (Jammu and Kashmir): i want to seek a clarification.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just wait. Let me announce the business and then you can have your say. The Minister will now reply to the debate on the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill.

Before that, Mr. Matto can make his point.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Madam, yesterday, while speaking on the Bill, I had mentioned that' the interest that is to be paid is in-built under the different Heado of the Appropriation Bill and is not separately shown. But on a perusal of this Schedule, I find that against Item No. 25, the interest is given as Rs. 10,650 ci'ores. Also, the repayment of debt under Section 28 has come to Rs. 1,52,120 crores. This may please be rectified. I would only request the hon. Minister that these figures are for the year 1987-88. I would request him kindly to inform us what is the estimate of the debt that we will have as outstanding at the end of the year 1988.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRi B. K. GADHVI): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am very happy and place on record my appreciation for the high quality of debate on this Bill. Fifteen Members have participated. Before I dwell upon the various specific points raised by the Members, I wiH deal with the general criticism which was levelled against the state of economy and complexion. First of all, I would like to reply to the general criticism and then deal with the specific points raised by the hon. Members.

Madam, our economy is in good shape and it is quite evident from the fact that after the presentation of the budget even the prices have shown a declining trend. The agricultural growth in the country is good, *i* can say so in view of the fact that although many States are in the grip of severe drought and some were in the grip of floods also, agriculture has shown good resilience despite these adverse circumstances. Our production would be more than what it* was last year. In the case of industrial growth, our growth is around 7 per cent. As the hon. Members know, because of scarcity of water and other constraints, our power generation does

suffer sometimes and the result is less generation of power, still the industrial growth has picked up.

Madam, on the front of import and exports, our balance of trade position has also improved. A conspicuous improvement is visible now. As regards our public sector undertakings, this year's performance is much better as compared with last year. Taking into consideration all these broad facets of our economy, I can say that it is in good shape and there is no reason for anybody to have any misgivings or apprehension that it is not in a proper shape.

Madam Deputy Chairman, on the front of industrial sickness, as Mr. Gbswami has pointed out, we are greatly concerned about' it. In both the public and private sectors, we are trying to identify the causes of sickness and trying to restore them back to health. In all the units—large, medium and small scale—we have got sick units. Various steps have been taken by the Government and by the financial institutions. The trend shows that we will be in a position to make them a little more healthier in the days to come. Madam Deputy Chairman, so far as natural calamities of flood and drought are concerned, it is quite unfortunate that successively for the last three years in very many parts of the country either the drought has visited that area or the flood. Therefore, even in 198-87 Budget Estimates, we had made outlays to the tune of Rs. 270.38 crores for Advance Plan assistance, for non-plan grant to floods and cyclones and for nonrplan grant of Centre's contribution of 50 per cent of margin money to the States. But as the drought was severe, we had actually to give assistance to the tune of Rs. 885.76 crores which is about three times more than the original outlay. And as such, the strain en economy can well be understood. But the economy is withstanding the strains: there is no point for any alarm.

As 1 said earlier, Madam, the public enterprises, performance for the first nine months of 1986-87 has shown a substantial impovement. And a quick suvery of the financial performance shows that il5 enterprises together earned a net profit of Rs. 919 crores as against a net profit of Rs. 452 crores earned by 161 enterprises during the same period of the previous year. And this speaks about better performance. We know that there is no room for complacency. In the area of public sector undertakings, yet there is a room for improvement, there is a room for bringing down the unit cost, and there is also a room for better productivity, better management, better labour relations and modernisation. And we are all on that. And I am sure that within a year or so, perhaps, We will be in a position to show better results than what we are showing today.

Madam, one general criticism was that agriculture which is the backbone of our economy is not being given good funds. Some of the Members have termed the allocation to Agriculture Ministry as meagre. When we think of agriculture, to take a very technical view as to what is the allocation to that particular Ministry would not be a proper approach to understand because agriculture has other aspects also. Agriculture cannot develop without good power. Agriculture cannot develop without irrigation, agriculture cannot develop without flood protection. And without rural development also agriculture cannot develop. And it is so even with regard to inputs. Agriculture very much depends on fertilizers. Therefore, to have a better perception, the proportions of outlays which go for not only agriculture development but also for rural development, irrigation, flood control and power should also be taken into account. I would like to submit, Madam, that out of the total Plan Outlay of Rs. 44,158 crores for 1987-88, Rs. 18,626 crores or 42 per cent is ear-markeed for these sectors. And they would help agicultur in achieving greater progress and more production.

[Shri B. K. Gad'hvi]

Madam, it has also been criticised that agricultural growth is not so much as compared to industry. But, in this respect also I would like to submit that we have to take into account the vagarie's of weather, which unfortunately are continuously bad for us for the last three years. But despite that our production has gone up, despite that in the country we are in a comfortable position so far as **the** food stocks are concerned and the areas which need proper attention and which need proper incentives to be given *to* them, we are giving them. For example, pulses, oilseeds. In all these areas also the Government's attention is very much engaged and therefore even in the area of oil imports with a view to seeing that farmers grow more oilseeds and have better price, and the deficiency can also be overcome, therefore, imports have been cut to an extent. Even with regard to sugar, I must submit that recently we have announced a policy of some excise concessions to sugar factories if their prduction goes beyond a particular limit or when their production has gone beyond a particular limit within a particular time. And in **this** vital areas namely, the agricultural sector of our country there cannot be any question of diluting our efforts. On the contrary, there is need for giving proper attention. The Hon. Members criticise and they say that we only take care of industrial sector or the industrialists. That is not the position. Our party represents agriculturists, poor farmers and villagers. We all come from villages and we know that for bettering the condition of farmers, farm labourers, village people what is indeed to be done. It has been stated that we have to stop the migration of the people from villages to cities. And it is true that this migration should stop but it can stop only jf we provide better facilities job opportunities, in villages And, for that purpose I would submit that the programme of rural electrification, programme of village electrification is being stepped up and because of that conditions in villages would improve and young people would be in a position to start some ventures some business or some projects there, and that alone can stop migration.

Mr. Goswami raised one point, namely, that the Centre has written to the State Governments that in case they do not pay up the amount to the Centre, then 80 per cent of that would be cut. It is so. I have written to all the Chief Ministers. I have not discriminate'd against the Cong-ress(I) ruled States and Non-Congress(I) ruled States. I have written to every Chief Minister. I have informed them that if they do not pay to the NTPC and Coal Tndia, then perhaps we will have to deduct 80 per cent of Central assistance and then we will pay it to them, because this is a very vital area. The States are not paying. And if we do not recover then the option for the Government of In'dia would be either to stop the supply of coal and power to the States or to recover it. But, let me make it very clear that we are not recovering this amount from the amounts which the States are entitled to under the allocations made by the Finance Commission, but orer and above that from the Gadgil formula, which is not obligatory on the Central Government. But over and above that we are giving to the States. From that only we are recovering and this sort of approach perhaps would be beneficial to the States also because they would activise and make their own electricity boards more vital and more alert for 'discharging their obligations ,and therefore, for 80 per cent which is the undisputed amount, we have said that if they do not pay we will have to recover it from the Central assistance. Therefore there should not be any misapprehension about that and I am sure the State Electricity Boards also will stand up to their promise of payment.

Mr. Goswami also raised another point that we are not paying what we promised to the States. It is not he case. Whatever we promised to the States, that is certainly being pa?d and on that count West Bengal also is being taken care of as any other State in **India.**

Mr Vithalbhai Patel who participated in tie debate, raised certain points and the m;,in point raised was about the dues from tie Indian Express Group and their showing no profit for a considerably long period of ten years or so and he said that Government is not enquiring into all these matters. It is correct that Indian Express Group haTe shown continuous losses fraai 1976-77 to 1986-87 as was replied *to* him in the past. It is als$_0$ true that penalties amounting to Rs. 3,61,187 and Rs. 2,83,826 for the assessment years 1972-73 and 1973-74 respectively have been levied fo$_r$ concealment of income and furnishing inaccurate particulars. Still, I am not in a position to say whether recovery has been made. But if there is $_{no}$ other constraint, I may tell him that We will surely make the recoveries.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): There is a department in the Finance Ministry called Investigation Department where accounts of big monopoly groups are over-seen. In the year 1986-87 it was found that 12 companies had concealed income to the extent of over Rs. 200 crores, but I do not find In'dian Express Group being mentioned there. I want to know whether the Government will look into it so that accounts of Indian Express Group are seen in this manne$_r$ so that all such things come out.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: I have told you that for concealment of income and for inaccurat$_e$ assessment, we have already levied penalty in th$_e$ past but I do not know whether it is yet to be recovered or it has already been recovered.

SHRI VTTHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL (Gujarat): The Minister talked of 1972-73. What about later years?

SHRI B, K. GADHVI: So far as later years are concerned, I do not have any information presently but if the hon. Member desires I will check up and furnish it to him.

But I was dwellling upon the other point about Indian Express Group's import of newsprint and there_ the dispute was about the import duty. The matter was taken to the court; ultimately it wag taken to Supreme Court and now the Supreme Court has finally decided and directed (the Government to redetermine the duty and the Government has fixed duty at Rs. 550 per metric tonne with effect from 1-3-1981. Consequently, demand notices have been issued recently to l the Indian Express Group of newspapers and other newspapers for payment of duty leviable on the import of newsprint with effect from 1-3-1981. So far as the Indian Express Newspapers Private Limited are concerned, an amount of Rs. 81.9 lakhs is to be recovered from them on this count. We have issued notices of demand and we have started the recovery process. I hope this information would satisfy Mr...

SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: What about tax evasion?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: So far as the other points which have been made by Mr. Patel are concerned, at present, I am not in a position to give replies to them. But I can surely say that we do not look either to the name or the face. If somebody defaults it would certainly be enquired into. The points raised by him would certainly be looked into by the department and if any breach is there, it would be taken care of.

Madam, some Members raised the point in regard to drinking water. This is a very vital area. The drinking water problem in many parts of the country, particularly availability of potable drinking water, is becoming very very acute. As hon. Members are' aware we have established a technology mission in this re gard ito find out the sources. I would submit that Government is alive to the problem. In the Seventh Plan Rs. 3,454 crores have been provided for rural water supply. This is nearly double the amount provided for in the Sixth Plan. Out of 2,27,000 problem villages_ 73,784 villages have so far been covered in the Seventh Plan. In this year, 1987-88_ Rs. 370 crores and Rs. 497 crores have been provided for rural water supply in the Cep-tral and State Plans respectivelr *

(Shri B. K. Gadhvi)

is also proposed that all the villages should be covered by 1991. Hon. Members would, appreciate from this that so far as the drinking water problem is concerned, we are very much alive and utmost care is taken.

Mr. Jogi mentioned about Central assistance to the States. He suggested that along with the other criteria, the criterion of the ixe of the State should be taken into consideration. I can very well appreciate his feelings. But to adopt this idea is not practical nor it is possible. We do take into account the national average, *per capita* income below the national average. Weightage is also given for the tax effort. In regard to other things,—it may be size or it may be any other thing,—ten per cent weightage is given. I would submit that this formula o" providing assistance from the Centre to the States,—adopted by the National Development Council, in which the Chief Ministers are members and who were also consulted,—is working well.

Mr. Jogi also referred to the drought situation in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to state that whenever the demand comes it is examined by a high-level committee and adequate help is given. Mr. Matto referred to the point about interest. I am glad he has noted that interest has been shown in the Bill.

Some other Members—I do not remember their names—also referred to this question of interest. As I said, this has already been shown in the Bill. This Bill gives the amount of interest also. It is Rs. 10,650 cror-es. Out of this the payment in respect of external debt is only Rs. 737 crores and the rest is in respect of internal debt. So far as our total debt is concerned, I can say . . .

S;HRI GHULAM RASOOL MAT-TO: At the end of the Seventh Plan?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: I can give the present position. The total internal borrowing outstanding as on 31-3-I 87 is Rs. 1,50,864 crores and external debt is Rs. 20,213 crores.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): What is the debt servicing? *(Interruptions).*

SHRI B. K. GADHVI: About interest I have already said. Internal debt I includes market loans, external loans, small savings, provident fund, trea- I sury bills, Indra Vikas Patra etc.

i On the a[1-]ea of external debts also we should not get alarmed. I make it clear that on the economic front$_i$ let there be internal pressures or not, we are not going to knee down. Our economy is in good shape and We will sustain all that. We will strive to go in for self-reliant economy and nothing can hamper us from making achievements.

Mr. Vithalbhai Patel and Mr. lr-shadbaig Mirza and others raised a point about electricity generation in Gujarat. Three proposals are under examination of the Central Electricity Authority. One is the simultaneous cycle gas based power station in North Gujarat. Another is the combined cycle power project based on gas in Gandhar fields in Broach district and the third one is the combined cycle gas-based station in Ut-ran. The capacities have also been given but I would not like to take time of this august House. I would only like to say that there are these three projects and they have got certain problems. Still the techno-econo-mic clearance by the Central Electricity Authority is not given because the availability of fuel is still to be confirmed by the Ministry of Petroleum. The other clearance like environment pollution, civil aviation etc. is also to be obtained by the project authorities. For the Central sector one gas-based combined cyde station

of 60 MW capacity is already being installed at Kawant by NTPC along-with the HPJ pipeline and this is already under execution.

Now Mr. Pandey who spoke in the end, spoke so many good words for Varanasi and he asked for a TV station or a studio there. I would like to say that in ihe Seventh Plan it is not possible to set up a studio or a programme production centre of Doordarshan at Varanasi. Howevep, facilities for the local talent of Varanasi for participation in the programme of Doordarshan arc available in the TV studio at Lucknow. A high-power TV transmitter is also in jtion at Varanasi.

डा० रत्नाकर पांण्डेय (उत्तर प्र देश) : उपसभापति जी, वहां कब तक स्टूडियों बन जाएगा ?

श्री बी० के० गढ़वी : सातवीं पंच वर्षीय योजना में नहीं बनेगा।

Shri Chimaubhai Mehta also raised a point about tax evasion in the country. I would like to say that we have not in any way slowed down our efforts of unearth ing the tax evasion and bringing to the book the economic offenders. Unfortuna tely, he is not here but I would like to say that so far as searches are concern ed, in 1984-85 the number of searches conducted was 4345, in 1985-86 it was 6413 and in 1986-87 it was 7054. The amount seized hr,s also increased. The amount on an average per seizure per sea , 1984-85 0.57 lakhs, in 1985-86 0.78 lakhs and in 86-87 it was 1.43 lakhs. Thus you would appreciate that the quality of the searches and our effort of catching the big fishes also have gathered momentum. It has already paid us divi-dend. You have not understood, Mr. Pate!. 1 am telling you the average per search. The total, if you want. I 1.00 p.m. can giv$_e$ you the figure: for 1986-87, it is Rs. 10,070.02 lakh.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : (Gujarat) : Sometimes advance information is also given and the *ho!e thing is done in collaboration.

SHRI B. K. GADHVl : I cannot deny Hfcat there may not be cases of this nature also. There may be; there may not be. But so far as search is concerned, we have got the mechanism of preliminary survey, keeping a watch and then going for the search. That is the reason why more people are being caught in the net. may be some instances of the typ have cited because this is a vast d raent and there are so many areas of ope rations and different v. ays and different mechanisms. But by and large I can as sure you that the Department of Revenue is keeping a close watch that such a .al lusion may not occur and recur and as possible advai; ution to the de-linquent or the economic offender is no! given and search is properly conducted.

Most of the Members have made broad points. Mr. Verma raised the point about our defence aiad other things. I am veiy happy to note that in this Bill we demanded Rs. 12,512 crore; for our defence expendiure. 1 am also happy to say that none of the Members has raised *wet* a finger against this expenditure, On the contrary, every Member has sap] that there should not be any let up dilution in our defence preparedness. We are aware of the threat perception on all the fronts—may be North-Eastern front, may be Western from, or may be any other front. Mr. Verma also said 'that in his personal opinion >ve should go in for nuclear armament. On this point the na-tion's options ire open for resorti any type of preparedness in case ol and therefore one should not feel that we are not in a position to match the threat perceptions by our neighbouring friends. But it is our policy and desire that all our disputes with them should be politically and peacefully settled in a civilised manner and not through the mechanism of war.

So, Madam, in this way 1 hope, by and large, I have tried to attend to all the points raised by hon. Members. However, I may assure them that it' a;'\ o'thei point concerning any other Ministry. .

श्री रामचन्द्र बिकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मेरे दो-तीन प्रश्न थे । कुछ प्रश्न म भी उठाए थे । गैर हाजिर मैम्बरों का क्या रहे हैं हम जो हाजिर बैठे हैं ।

श्री गुलाम रसूल मट्टू : यह ट्रेडीशन है गढ़वी साहब कि जो प्वायंट्स हम यहां उठाते हैं जिनका जवाब उनके मंत्रालय से ताल्लुक नहीं रखता है वे उस मंत्रालय को भेजते हैं और फिर जवाब देते हैं।..... (व्यवधान)

श्री बी० क० गढ़वी : श्री विकल जी ने बहुत अच्छे प्वायंट उठाए थे। खास तौर से यही प्वायंट उठाए थे कि हमारे देश में जो कम्युनल दंगे होते हैं, तो उन्होंने कुछ जिक्र किया था काश्मीर के उन बड़े-बड़े शहीदों का जिन्होंने लश्कर के साथ, हमारी आर्मी के साथ रह कर अपनी जान कुर्बान की थी और सब कोमों के अन्दर भाईचारे की बात की थी। उन्होंने यह भी कहा था कि ऐसे आदमियों के सामने चाहे वे किसी धर्म के हो, किसी जाति के हों मैं सिर झुकाता हूं, वंदना करता हूं, यह सब बातें कहीं थी।

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल : अधूरी सिंचाई योजनाएं पड़ी हैं उनके लिए कहा है।

श्री बी० के० गढ़वी : हम यह जानते jT W ■ 5-snT Tifff aTg tf cun or violence is emerging, it should not happen. At least when we say we are successors to Gandhiji, everybody should involve, every body should participate in curbing this cult of violence and communal dishar- i mony. We have to bring about communal harmony.

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Another point wa$_s$ that the on-going projects which have not been progressing well, should be stepped up and they should be finished first before taking up other projects. I would submit that so far as the Central projects are concerned, we are trying to introduce the concept of zero-based budgeting .'n which the projects are appreciated and assessed. In. that way we would try to sec that on-going projects should not starve for want of funds and that they should be completed as early as possible. I may tell that so far as the time-overrun is concerned, so far as the cost-overruu is concerned, we ate very much aware of it. The respective Ministries, the administrative Ministries also are aware of this fact, and they are , monitoring the projects which come within 1 their areas. jSo far as the State projects are concerned also, I think, the States are quite aware. But so far as the Central projects are concerned, I do appreciate the point that the projects which are incomplete, which are on-going, should be completed $_0$n tim^ *so* that w$_e$ can have the benefits of those project. And on that account, I asure that such projects would not be starving for want of funds.

So, Madam, some of the points, as I stated earlier, which might mot have been touched by me now, concern different Ministries. I am happy that Members have pointed them out. We have made a practice that we cull down all those points and send them to the respective Minisries for their implementation under information to us. Therefore, all those points which have been raised, I would certainly send to the respective Ministries for action.

With these words, I thank again all the Members for their valuable participation.

श्री मोर्जा इर्शादबेग (गुजरात) : महोदया, मैं अपने दो पाइंट का क्लेरी-फिकेशन चाहूंगा मंत्री जी से। एक तो मैंने यह कहा था उनसे कि जैसे कि ऊर्जा की कमी है इसलिए एक परपोजल कि पांच मेगावाट गैस बैस पावर जनरेटर जो है, उसको इम्पार्ट करने की मांग है। तो उस पर नीति विषयक कोई निर्णय हो तो वह हमें बताएं और दूसरी बात मैंने यह कही थी कि जहां तक गैस के भावों का सवाल, है, वहां तक गुजरात और आसाम के अन्दर दोनों में असामान्य परिस्थिति है। तो मैंने यह मांग की थी कि क्या सरकार इस बात के लिए कोई एक कमीशन उसके भावों का निर्धारण करने के लिए घोषित करेगी ? मैं चाहूंगा महोदया, आपके माध्यम से कि इसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय कुछ क्लेरीफिकेशन दें।

श्री बी० के० गढ़वी : मैं आपके दोनों पाइंट कंसर्न मिनिस्टरी को दूंगा कार्यान्वित करने के लिए।

श्री मोर्जा इर्शादबेग : धन्यवाद।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: *The* question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion w<is adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration.

Classes 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, *the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI B. K. GADKVI : Madam, I move :

"That the Bill be returned." *The question wps put, ana the motion was adopted.*

THE PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1987—*Contd.*

THF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1987. The time allotted was 2 hours. Now one hour ^nd four minutes left.

SHRI P. N. KAUL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to support the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 1987. It is a very simple Bill and it is also a very welcome Bill. I personally thought when the Government came up with an amendment in the Payment of Bonus Act raising the wage limit from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 2,500, that they would follow it up with an amendment in the Gratuity Act also. However, the Government has takes some time. 1 do not know why. But, I welcome it even at this stage. If the wage limit for purposes of payment of Bonus could be raised from Rs. 1600 per month to Rs. 2,500 per month, on the saxe analogy the wage limit proposed fo be increased from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 2,500 is quite in order and I support it.

Gratuity is paid subject to a ctiling of 20 months' wages. That is the ceiling. Nobody can receive by way of gratuity more than 20 months' wages. Now, this limit of 20 months' wages is proposed to be replaced by a monetary limit of Rs. 50,000. Now if the wage limit is Rs. 2,500 and the maximum period allowed is 20 months then 2500 x 20 comes to 50,000. So, virtually there is no difkrence between the two. I do not know why Government is now trying to replace the ceiling of 20 months' wages by Rs. 50,000, because they are practically cue and the same.

At present the employees in non-| seasonal establishments get 15 days' wages as gratuity for one yiar of service and those in seasonal establishments get seven days' wages by \v.\y of gratuity. These limits are not being revised. So, as regards (non-seasonal establishments fifteen days' wages for every year rendered as service will be there and also as regards seasonal establishments only seven days' wages for each season will be there. Now there is a little anachronism here. You 'say 20 months' wages can be paid as gratuity, but for one year only 15 days' wages will be paid. It .neans for getting the maximum gratuity proposed to be admissible under the law, one has to put in service amounting to 40 years. I think very few people may be in a position to put in 40 years' service to earn 20 months' wages as gratuity. People work mostly for 30 years, 33 years and 35 years. It means even less than one per cent will be in a position to get the maximum gratuity under the law. They cannot get it.

As regards the Central Governmemt employees, they also get fifteen days' wages for every ynar of service rendered as gratuity. The maximum limit there is sixteen and a half months. Here it is 20 months' wages and the Central Government employee gets as maximum gratuity the wages for sixteen and a half months. This is totally erroneous. It se^ms to be rather an *ad hoc* irrangement. Why fifteen days' wages as gratuity only in a particular year? If bonus can *be* paid at the rate of 8.33 per cent, why not gratuity *br* oaid at the same rate? So, my suggesV_^n is that gratuity should also be paid to an